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COME IN.



IS COFFEE
ALRIGHT?



AH... YES.



I DON'T CARE
EITHER WAY.



I SEE YOU
MOVED YOUR OFFICE.
I THOUGHT SOMEONE
WAS ATTACKING US.

SIT WHEREVER YOU WANT



WHERE...?

WAVE

POOF

WE'RE NOT HERE
TO PLAY AROUND.



I HAVE TO MOVE
WHENEVER I FEEL
UNCOMFORTABLE.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE"



I HEARD RUMORS,
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT
YOU'D ACTUALLY BE KEEPING
A KID WITH YOU.

INTERESTING.



SIT, SIT"



THERE'S
NOWHERE TO SIT...

CARD SAID
HE'D ALREADY
CONTACTED YOU.

REGARDING
PROTECTIVE CUSTODY...



RIGHT.
HE DID.



BUT DON'T YOU
THINK I NEED TO KNOW
WHAT I'M PROTECTING
YOU FROM, FIRST?



I DOUBT YOU
WANT TO BE CUT OFF
FROM THE WORLD...

I DO.



HAHAHA!



YOU'RE AS
HUMORLESS
AS EVER.



SO, THIS KID IS...

I'M YURA,
AND I'M NOT
A KID.



REALLY?

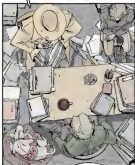


AND WHAT
CAN I DO
FOR YOU?

YOU DON'T
LOOK LIKE YOU
WANT TO HIDE.



DON'T ASK SILLY
QUESTIONS AND JUST
DO YOUR JOB.



AND...

WHAT'S WITH
THE DOGS?

HOW LONG
HAVE YOU HAD IT?



THEY WERE GOING
TO ILLEGALLY DISASSEMBLE
HIM AT THE MARKETS,



AND HE LOOKED
SO PITIFUL, SO I
BROUGHT HIM HOME
WITH ME.

I WAS STARTING
TO FEEL LONELY BECAUSE
YOU STOPPED VISITING,

AND WORKING
ALONE GETS DULL,



STARE —



SO I NAMED
HIM AARON!

POOF



PPPP

BASTARD.



YOU'RE AS RUDE AS EVER

DIDNT I
TELL YOU TO
FIX THAT?



HEY KID,
YOU SHOULDN'T STAY
WITH HIM FOR TOO LONG.



HE'LL
CORRUPT YOU

C-CORRUPT...



SO, WHAT
CAN YOU DO
FOR US?

I NEED TO KNOW
WHAT'S GOING ON FIRST,
HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN
WITH YOU?



7-8 YEARS?
I THINK

YOU SHOULD'VE
JUST LIVED OUTSIDE
THE CITY WHY DID STAY
HERE, WHERE YOU'LL
BE FOUND OUT?



YOU KNOW
I'VE HAD THAT
STORE FOR A
WHILE.



AH, RIGHT?
THAT TRASH
STORE.

AND DID YOU
FORGET IT'S EVEN
MORE DANGEROUS
OUTSIDE?



IT'S BEEN A WHILE
SINCE I'VE GONE OUT.
THERE'S BEEN NO REASON
FOR ME TO. THERE HAVEN'T
BEEN MANY REQUESTS
LATELY.

AND HOW'S
YOUR BODY DOING?



WOAH? ARE YOU
WORRYING ABOUT ME?
THAT'S NEW.



YOU USED TO
MARVEL THAT I
HADN'T DIED YET.



FUNCH!



CURIOUS?

WHETHER
I'M A HUMAN...

...OR
A MACHINE?



I WAS A HUMAN,
WELL, WE ALL WERE
AT ONE POINT.

?



MY BODY
STARTED HURTING
ALL OVER ONE DAY.



AND MY BODY
STOPPED FUNCTIONING
PROPERLY.

I THINK THAT
WAS WHEN I WAS
AROUND... 30?

I WAS PRETTY
YOUNG AND
HEALTHY...



NO-ONE KNEW WHY
IT WAS HAPPENING TO ME,
AND SOON ENOUGH,
I WAS ON THE VERGE
OF DEATH.

I CAN'T EVEN
REMEMBER THE
PAIN ANYMORE.



IT'S BEEN
OVER 50 YEARS
AFTER ALL...

YOU MUST BE
OVER 50 NOW.



THEN HOW...



DO YOU...

HOW DO I
LOOK SO
YOUNG?



THAT'S...



...BECAUSE I
WAS SEVERELY
PUNISHED...



...FOR A CRIME
I COMMITTED.



WHAT DOES
THAT MEAN?

BACK THEN,
THE HUMANS DIDN'T
LIVE IN JUST THE
PALACE.



WE LIVED IN
HIDING, COVERING UP
OUR TRUE IDENTITIES.

IT WAS PEACEFUL.
MORE SO THAN NOW,
AT LEAST.



BUT SOMEONE
SOLD EVERY SINGLE
ONE OF US OUT,

FOR HIS
OWN BENEFIT...



...TO THE VERY PLACE
YOU ESCAPED FROM.



MACHIA'S
TOY PALACE.



TO BE CONTINUED..